

Audio file

[1973-11-17 - 29 - Skylab Blastoff - CBS.mp3](#)

Transcript

00:00:00

And.

00:00:02

I think we have a darn confident crew and I think we can handle the job real well.

00:00:07

Carr, who is 41 years old, has been an astronaut for over 7 years, waited that long to fly in space. He has a rather large cheering section back home. Six children, including two sets of twins. No other astronaut can make that claim. To learn how to combat isolation while in space, Carr talked with a former Vietnam.

00:00:29

Prisoner of War Air Force Colonel Sam Johnson.

00:00:32

I learned from from him that man is.

00:00:36

And.

00:00:37

Indeed, an extraordinary thing being he if Sam and those guys could live over there like that and keep control of themselves and keep ahead of the situation, that what we're going to do is.

00:00:49

Just a piece of cake.

00:00:50

The scientist in the crew is Edward Gibson. He has a pH. D in engineering and his hobby is looking at the sun. During this mission, he'll be primarily responsible for just.

00:01:02

The 37 year old Gibson was one of the first scientists chosen for astronaut duty. That was back in 1965.

00:01:09

Well, it certainly anyone who waits that period of time has to continue to ask themselves whether what's at the end of the line is going to be worth the wait.

00:01:20

I assessed it many times and I always came up with.

00:01:22

The same answer that the.

00:01:24

Opportunity to make a flighting space with a lot of scientific instruments with high capability and.

00:01:31

With myself operating some of those was always worth.

00:01:33

The wait.

00:01:35

The third man in the crew is an Air Force Flyer, 43 year old Lieutenant Colonel William Poe. He flew combat missions in Korea, later was a member of the Thunderbirds, the Precision Flying Team.

00:01:47

Pogue and his colleagues have to pay a price while flying in space. They have to change some of their habits.

00:01:54

I I stopped smoking without any problem at all and I won't miss that.

00:02:02

I wondered if one could use snuff on board as a matter of fact, I don't know. I don't have enough. Don't have snuff? No, I you know, if you had a taste for tobacco, it's often occurred to me it's sort of an unpleasant thought to some people, but it.

00:02:16

How do you keep it on your fingers in weightlessness? I would hear that might be an interesting test.

00:02:18

Haven't have any idea, I have no idea. I imagine that probably you'd probably make enemies in a hurry with a can.

00:02:23

Of snuff on board.

00:02:25

Carr, Gibson and Pogue, the last US crew to go into space until the joint US Soviet mission planned for 1975. Morton Dean, CBS News, Johnson Space Center, Houston.

00:02:38

Fish.

00:02:39

One minute and 38 seconds until liftoff, and just one quick note before we begin listening to the voice of launch.

00:02:45

Control maximum dynamic pressure when the when the launch vehicle goes through its greatest stress and liftoff comes one minute and 14 seconds into the flight. And since there have been some troubles with the bird, I'm sure everybody is going to be a little bit more tense than usual. Watching that particular moment.

00:03:03

Right. We look for it then, Walter is that's the stress on those fans. But we've got the doublers and all the good things.

00:03:08

It should be all right. Now we'll listen to the voice of launch control. This is Chuck Collins.

00:03:08

To ensure a smooth.

00:03:11

Going through the pounds, please.

00:03:14

We're approaching the one minute mark in the count now, t -, 1 minute and counting, the astronaut crew are Gibson and foe, just about completed their pre flight preparations. Bill Poe just brought up the spacecraft batteries. They're online now and they're giving extra electrical power to the spacecraft at lift. Lift off and they also act as a backup.

00:03:35

To the fuel cells last action taken by the crew just being done now by spacecraft Commander Gerald Carr at T -. 45 seconds. And he made the final guidance alignment that done from the spacecraft t -, 28 seconds and continuing to.

00:03:52

Out launch vehicle now on internal Power status board shows all stages on internal power on the flight batteries t -, 18 seconds t -, 16.

00:04:04

Count continuing to go smoothly t -, 13. We'll look for an ignition at t -, 2.1 seconds 98765432.

00:04:18

We have a liftoff. Liftoff. The engine building up to £1.6 million of thrust in Skylab is moving slowly off the pad. It's cleared the tower.

00:04:38

Not how are you?

00:04:38

We're in. Jerry Carr beautifully aren't.

00:04:40

We.

00:04:41

Great communication, beautiful sight.

00:04:42

Mark 25 seconds. Graham Rogers 30 seconds. Pitch and roll program started Skylab now went over into his proper flight path. Attitude Mark 35 seconds one nautical altitude.

00:04:58

Mark 40 seconds, giving a green light by rain.

00:05:03

Marked 45 seconds. Kevin pressure leading.

00:05:06

Adjusting.

00:05:10

She looks good so far. Beautiful. Perfect.

00:05:12

Roll complete pitch profiles still in progress 58 seconds 3.

00:05:19

1BB.

00:05:22

Now we're getting that maximum dynamic pressure there that that point.

00:05:24

I'm getting your feet wet and everything's looking real good.

00:05:27

Coffee seat West.

00:05:29

Mark one minute, 12 seconds. I'd call out from Capcom. **** truly says Skylab, now capable of water of water landing one minute, 18 seconds.

00:05:38

That's how you tell where the guests of that point.

00:05:41

Passing through a period of maximum aerodynamic pressure now.

00:05:45

What a beautiful sight. Ah, spectacular.

00:05:47

Marks one minute, 30 seconds, 9 nautical miles, an altitude.

00:05:51

In a long time.

00:05:52

Walter, Sir. One minute, 35 seconds pass through. Max Q Skylab. Still flying steady and stable on all 8 engines.

00:05:52

No.

00:06:00

You're getting a beautiful picture.

00:06:01

On your television set and.

00:06:03

Brad, you, Jerry.

00:06:05

By the naked eye here, and an absolutely perfectly blue sky magnificent sight.

00:06:05

Now for Mode 1C, Mark mode 1C.

00:06:11

Mark 154 seconds. The status checking Mission Control by flight director Phil Shaffer. Go. No go for staging. Giving a go for staging. Now live. Houston. You're looking good. You're.

00:06:19

Go for staking, Roger.

00:06:22

Mark 2 minutes, 4 seconds coming up now on engine shut down and staging Skylab. Now 22 nautical miles an altitude. 21 nautical miles down range.

00:06:32

We've never seen one like this with the naked eye.

00:06:35

I don't think that's coming out.

00:06:40

2/1.

00:06:40

There's the staging. They're staging engine shutdown.

00:06:43

You can see it from here with the naked eye as well as that great picture you've got on television.

00:06:49

As 4B has ignited.

00:06:53

Two minutes 35 seconds, 36 nautical miles. LA, Houston. The thrust looks good on S4B2 minutes. 42 seconds. Staging on time. Car Gibson pole. Now riding on a good a second stage engine coming up now on launch. Escape tower. Jettison.

00:06:58

So those pins did their job. They surely did.

00:07:11

43 nautical miles in altitude.

00:07:12

There is Howard. Jettison your mouth too.

00:07:13

Now you see that.

00:07:15

Great picture.

00:07:17

Great picture of that big launch tower that launch escape Tower that would on that earlier stage of the flight, pull the command module free from the rocket.

00:07:25

Safety role no longer required.

00:07:27

So that it could so that it could parachute safely back to a landing in the ocean. Not needed any longer. Now the command module can separate itself and fly its way back.

00:07:37

19 miles down range.

00:07:39

What a picture today.

00:07:41

Smooth as glass. Houston under, we had a beautiful picture on TV all the way. It looks real good.

00:07:43

Smooth as glass.

00:07:50

Mark 3 minutes, 34 seconds, Commander Jerry Carr reporting to ****. Truly, the flight is smooth as glass. Meanwhile, the first stage and launch escape tower falling away now heading for their own final splash that splash down, status check and Mission Control by flight director Phil Shaffer for four minutes.

00:08:08

They're about almost 100 miles down range now.

00:08:10

80 seconds 65 nautical miles in altitude.

00:08:15

They're making about 5000 miles an hour almost now a little more.

00:08:18

4 minutes Roger Houston. Looks good here.

00:08:19

Than that.

00:08:26

Our coverage of this final Skylab flight will continue.

00:08:29

In a moment.

00:08:37

I have a PhD in biophysics and I do enzyme research, but I'm also a mother and I know the importance of vitamins for my family. That's why I choose Tang. I like the vitamins A and C Tang delivers, and of course it was one source of nutrition for the astronauts. But the boys are sold untamed because it tastes good.

00:08:57

That's important. I wouldn't give my children something you didn't like, right, Brian?

00:09:03

Ohh mom.

00:09:08

To be your mother is to know these few moments of joy.

00:09:12

But when something as unfair as a headache interrupts, you deserve a pain reliever that goes to work faster than plain aspirin. Offering this illustrates by the time most of Muffin is going to.

00:09:23

Your headache.

00:09:24

Most of plain aspirin is still in your stomach.

00:09:28

Moments like these are too precious not to take bufferin it's faster to your headache with less chance of stomach upset.

00:09:39

I saw Skylab is now.

00:09:41

At this point, about 54 miles high, 288 miles down range on the way toward its rendezvous with the Sky Lab laboratory circling overhead at 270 miles an hour. Circling isn't exactly the word. It's not circling a single spot. Of course. It's orbiting overhead.

00:09:58

And we'll they'll be meeting up with it about 7 hours from now. Later on this evening.

00:10:05

The flight was absolutely perfect from here. Just a beautiful takeoff of one of the most, I think, a spectacular we have almost ever seen the sky absolutely blue. Not a cloud in it, and we could follow the control all the way down. We could even see staging from here with the naked eye. And of course you at home saw it on television.

00:10:13

OK.

00:10:24

Even better than that, through the use of those long range cameras.

00:10:29

And so this rookie crew of Gerald Carr and Bill Pogue and Ed Gibson, the civilian science pilot, are on their way toward their Christmas cruise on Skylab. And the takeoff was absolutely perfect. As we say, a unique concept of this Skylab mission is going to be the observation.

00:10:49

Of that comet code tech we mentioned a little earlier, celestial visitor discovered last March by a Czech astronomer working at the Hamburg laboratories named Lubos Chotek. It may turn out to be.

00:11:00

The comet of the century surpassing in Brilliance Halley's famed comet, which was last seen in 1910, and I think makes its next visit around 1986 to our inner solar system. Here. Of course, there were no astronauts then when Halley was back that Halley Comet in 1910, there were no astronauts and in recent years.

00:11:21

Space flights just haven't coincided with the appearance of any big comets, so no man flying in space has ever seen one before. All that's about to change, as Morton Dean explains.

00:11:29

Oh.

00:11:34

Walter, these are some pictures of some comets from out of the past. There are some reported sightings as far back as 467 BC. They have been a mystery just about ever since. One major theory is that the nucleus of a comet is made-up of frozen water, frozen gases and some solid mass. From the very beginnings of the planetary system.

00:11:55

That's the so-called dirty iceberg.

00:11:57

Theory. And today, Kotek is located just about here. The earth up here orbiting around the sun. And here is the sun itself. I know about Thanksgiving Day, Kotek should become visible to the naked eye. If you get up before the sun does. And if you look to the southeast between Christmas and New Year's Day, Kotek will arc.

00:12:17

Behind the sun, the tail is always heading away from the sun and reacting to the sun. That tail is expected to expand to some 50, perhaps 100 million miles long.

00:12:30

Then in January and early in February, the Hotek will be visible after the sun sets. If you look to the southwest and it will begin to disappear from view from mid February on. Astronomers caution though that comets can be highly unpredictable. The astronauts riding in the Sky Lab will get an unparalleled view.

00:12:50

Of the comet Kahuta.

00:12:52

Mother Nature has been pretty good to us to bring this thing by at just the right time. The hope is that this is primordial matter from far outside the.

00:13:05

Inner planets of the solar system where it originates, we're really not sure, but there is hope that it is matter which was created right along with the solar system and has not changed greatly if this is the case, then by observing the light emitted from it we can tell what it what it's composed of, what its constituents are, and perhaps learn a heck of a lot more about how the solar system.

00:13:26

Was formed what we'd expect to find on other planets, and also how our own planet is put together, which is pretty vital to us these days.

00:13:34

This is a picture of cotek, that fuzzy spot about the center of the picture taken by NASA early this morning through a high-powered telescope. The astronomers say it will return around here in about 80,000 years, but if you get the opportunity to see it on this trip, do Walter.

00:13:51

Incidentally, you won't see it moving unless you sit and watch it for an hour or so. It doesn't really dart across the sky. It's just another great big bright spot up there. I thought, you know for a while that that, that the manned Space Center in Houston named it and it was one of those advertising acronyms, the whole tech come to Houston, TX. You know, I didn't come out that way.

00:14:08

02.

00:14:10

CBS News coverage of Skylab.

00:14:12

3 will continue in a moment.

00:14:22

No headache seems small when it's yours. That's why you should know the difference between plain aspirin and bufferin. This illustrates by the time most of Bufferin is going to your headache, most of plain aspirin is still in your stomach.

00:14:38

And with Bufferin is less chance of stomach upset too, so the difference can be important.

00:14:44

Bathroom faster to your headache, better for your stomach.

00:14:52

I'm an airline pilot and let me tell you when you help to fly a 52 ton jet, your mind is working every minute. But like most mothers, I do a lot of thinking at home too. I'm very aware of vitamins, especially for my son Stanley. When Stanley Heard Tang went to the moon with the astronauts, he said let's try it mom.

00:14:59

Just want.

00:15:11

Now we use Tang 2 because of all the vitamin C Because Tang's cool fresh taste really helps us get off.

00:15:18

The ground in the morning.

00:15:22

Well, you know, I was talking about the energy crisis these days, and I know the firm you worked with is even concerned with some of that, but we got some interesting figures on what this thing cost in energy got in front of me here. The 41,000 gallons of kerosene that the kerosene RP1 kerosene type fuel. The second stage that's in the first stage.

00:15:41

And the second stage has got 64,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen, a source of energy which we haven't really mastered for use on Earth yet, or they're not using it, and I think.

00:15:51

A good guy because that makes water.

00:15:52

That's right. And there's probably going to that eventually the communications center down in Houston.

00:15:58

It uses about 2000 kilowatt hours of electric power and that's enough to run and build a house, a three bedroom house for about a month, and the whole Space Center down there. The the Manned Space Center uses 2 enough fuel to enough electricity for 2000 homes for a month, for one home for 170 years.

00:16:20

So there's a lot of energy involved in this in the use of this in this in this particular flight of.

00:16:25

Now that they're in orbit, what lies immediately ahead? Of course, for the Skylab 3 crew is a series of complicated maneuvers to take their spacecraft, to rendezvous with the Space Laboratory 270 five 270 miles up. That comes later this evening. And then they'll make 5 space walks and all of their laboratory experiments. Let's take a look again at the launch of Skylab 1A little earlier.

00:17:06

3.

00:17:07

Two, we have ignition. We have a liftoff. Liftoff. The engines building up to £1.6 million of thrust. And Skylab is moving slowly off the pad. It's cleared the tower.

00:17:20

Roger. Tower, Claire. We're getting a raw program.

00:17:23

Various dress looks good on all edges. Second, she used to not controlling.

00:17:34

Mark, 25 seconds. Graham. Roger, CBR.

00:17:39

30 seconds pitch and roll program started Skylab, now maneuvering to its proper flight path. Attitude Mark 35 seconds one nautical mile and altitude.

00:17:49

Mark 40 seconds, given a green light by rain safe.

00:17:55

Mark 45 seconds, Kevin pressure leaving.

00:17:58

Adjusting, Rodger.

00:18:04

Roll complete pitch profile still in progress 58 seconds, 3 nautical miles altitude.

00:18:10

Mark 1B1B.

00:18:12

And after what you're seeing here, we have been told they got the cut off of their second stage. They're well on the way toward where they are in orbit. That's been established and they're well on the way toward the rendezvous.

00:18:16

Have you seen your feet wet and everything's looking real good when mark one minute, 12 seconds, I call out from Capcom and truly says Skylab now capable.

00:18:27

At Rendezvous will come about to 4:25 this afternoon and they'll dock at 441. Then they'll.

00:18:33

Sleep in their command module tonight and take up residence in Sky Lab tomorrow for the Christmas season and this has been a Walker Crime guide reporting with Wally Shirov from our Kennedy Space Center out of a full report on today's Sky Lab story on the CBS Evening News that'll include the docking and CBS News will be ready to bring you any important developments. Of course, in the flight.

00:18:54

That might occur before then. Good day.

00:19:01

This has been a special report from CBS News Skylab 3 today, the launch of the final crew and the start of man's longest mission in space. This broadcast has been sponsored by Tang's Orange Flavored Instant breakfast drink and by Bufferin fast to your headache, gentle on your stomach.